



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1 Airport Road
Glasgow, MT 59230

November 12, 2015

Environmental Quality Council
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Parks Division
Fisheries Division
Wildlife Division
Conservation & Education Division
Design & Construction Bureau
Commission Secretary
Regional Office Managers
Director's staff
Legal Unit
Law Enforcement Division
Responsive Management Unit
Montana State Library, Helena
MT Environmental Information Center
Montana Audubon Council
LEG Services
State Historic Preservation Office
-Governor's Office
Jennifer Ramsey DVM, FWP

Marti Zaluski, DVM, DOL

Richard Kerstein (FWP Commissioner)
Richard Stuker (FWP Commissioner)
BLM Malta Field Office
BLM Valley Field Office
Valley County Commissioners
Phillips County Commissioners
Phillips County NRCS
Valley County NRCS
Ranchers Stewardship Alliance
American Prairie Reserve
World Wildlife Fund
Valley County Grazing District
Phillips County Grazing District
Dave Naugle, UM
Representative Mike Lang
Charles M. Russell NWR
The Nature Conservancy
DNRC-NE Land Office
MT Wildlife Federation

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) and Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) have developed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the proposed action of translocating up to 40 sage grouse biennially between 2016 and 2020, totaling up to 120 sage grouse over the five year period from South Phillips and Valley Counties in northeast Montana to suitable habitat in southeast Alberta to augment an existing population of sage grouse. This is a joint project between FWP and AEP.

In Canada sage grouse are classified as an endangered species and numbers in southeastern Alberta have declined about 80 percent since 1970. The proposed translocation is intended to counter further population losses or extirpation of the Alberta sub-population in an area where habitat conditions are improving due to habitat restoration efforts and decreasing oil and gas activity in the area.

The EA is available at: www.fwp.mt.gov . If you would like to request a printed version of the EA contact the Region 6 Office at 228-3700. The public comment period on the draft EA will extend through 5:00 pm, December 11, 2015. Written comments can be mailed to Sage Grouse EA Comments, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 1 Airport Road, Glasgow, MT 59230 or emailed to ksmith@mt.gov. The FWP Commission will be asked to approve this proposal at the January Commission meeting, scheduled for January 14, 2016. If you have any further questions regarding this proposal, please call the Region 6 FWP office at 228-3700. Thank you very much for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark Sullivan
Regional Supervisor